

EVERETT COMMUNITY STREETS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

WEYERHAEUSER ROOM, EVERETT STATION, 3201 SMITH AVENUE

MEETING 6

Draft Meeting Summary

Task Force Members Attending:					
Chris Adams	X	Sylvia Anderson		Jonathan Apuan	
Glen Bachman	X	Sophia Beltran	X	Flora Diaz	X
Bob Dobler	X	Alan Dorway	X	Megan Dunn	X
Cassie Franklin	X	Linda Grant	X	GeorgaDee MacLeod	X
Mark Mantei	X	Mark Nysether	X	Ed Petersen	X
Renee Quistorf	X	Robert Reese	X	Marilyn Rosenberg	
Matthew Savage	X	Tom Sebastian		Craig Skotdal	X
Joyce Stewart		Julie Zarn	X		
Task Force Member Alternates Attending:					
Suzanne Duff		Kris McDowell		Mike Purcell	
Winnie Corral		Teena Ellison		Murray Gordon	
Chris Knapp		Mary Jane Brell-Vujovic	X	Karen Matson	
Jim Upton	X				
City/County/Housing Authority Staff & Support Team Attending:					
Ty Trenary		David Hall	X	Lanie McMullin	
Dan Templeman	X	Ken Stark	X	Bob Downey	X
Deborah Wright	X	Ashley Lommers-Johnson		Karen Reed, Facilitator	X

Welcome: Karen Reed welcomed the group and thanked City staff and subcommittees for their efforts. Meeting six is about looking at solutions and there are a lot of ideas to go through. There are 3 things that need to happen at today's meeting: (1) we have a problem statement that will need feedback before it gets approved at the next meeting, (2) we need to discuss the ballot, go through voting instructions and next steps, and (3) hear back from our subcommittees and their recommendations.

Co-chair remarks: Chris noted that there is a ton of work being done behind the scenes and City staff and subcommittees are doing a tremendous job.

Draft meeting summary: *Minutes approved unanimously without correction.*

Information requests: Questions 10 and 11 originated from the last meeting and have been answered as displayed.

Everett Gospel Mission Open Forum: On September 23rd, Gospel Mission had a focus group with a group of homeless individuals to answer questions. Mark Mantei and Julie Zarn attended and Sylvia did a great job of moderating the focus group. Mark had some takeaways from the focus group: they appreciate law enforcement as the streets are very dangerous, and they wish to be distinguished between those who have fallen on hard times and those who are drug addicts. Mark also noted

that mental illness is a major factor that led these individuals to the mission and to the streets. Julie agreed with Mark and stated there is a lack of consistent, long term, outpatient mental health services. She noted the homeless want the same things we do: they want to belong and have friends, they don't want to be involved in drugs and alcohol and are they are concerned about safety and theft. They do not like to be stereotyped or called names, they are concerned about jobs, and challenges that hold them back like a criminal record and difficulty finding employment. They want programs to help them develop communication skills, job skills and are thankful for the mission. 100% of the group did not want to be homeless and would rather live in a house or apartment but unfortunately, barriers exist.

Draft Problem Statement: Karen encouraged the group to read the document and review it with the intention of making it concise and understandable.

Cassie Franklin suggested that we say "street conduct and behavior" or something different from "street disorder", which seems to refer to garbage and messiness rather than behavior. Cassie noted the problems Everett is experiencing are not unique to us but it should be noted that we are a smaller urban center than most cities, which makes the activity more noticeable.

Flora Diaz noted the first bullet point under "constraints and obstacles" should be split into two parts: lack of long-term affordable housing and housing insecurity for those who are couch-surfing and/or living in their car.

Megan Dunn suggested changing from "insufficient policing and staffing" to "ineffective", as we have identified different ways for police to get involved, like more foot patrols and bike patrols. It may not be that we need more police but need additional strategies. David noted that bullet point is intended to address the community's concern of wanting more police presence in the commercial core and that we currently have 24 unfilled positions in the police department. Chief Templeman clarified that there is funding capacity to fill the vacant police positions, but the department is having trouble finding qualified individuals who can pass their background processing. The police department is implementing new recruiting strategies but the process of hiring an officer is lengthy.

Craig commented on the homeless in commercial core areas, saying that the visibility of the behavior not only affects shoppers and residents but also visitors. People visiting the Schack Art Center, the children's museum and downtown cultural attractions are affected by the behavior. New and prospective businesses are also negatively impacted.

Ed Petersen said the task force has two working parts: the people on the streets and those impacted by them. Ed said the absence of a vision and an effective delivery system is not helping –the community, law enforcement and social services all approach these issues from their own vantage point which leads to a piecemeal way of solving these problems.

Ken Stark would like to add "governmental restrictions in siting affordable housing that drives costs up" under "constraints and obstacles". He would also like to add "fears of neighborhoods, businesses and communities in siting services, or the "not in my backyard" perception.

Cassie Franklin agreed with Ed Petersen on needing to separate the two issues: the health and well-being of our community members and the health and well-being of having a vibrant economic community. She also agreed that we need more clarity around our vision statement.

Megan Dunn said that "concern for individuals experiencing homelessness" should be part of the problem statement and said that social issue of concern is lack of economic opportunity in the city.

Bob Reese noted that street level social issues are symptoms of homelessness and if we aren't careful, we're treating the symptom, not the cause.

Mark Nysether said under "constraints and obstacles" that Everett is the biggest city in the county and being the county seat therefore has the jail, Compass Health and the Gospel Mission. All these services are designed to serve the county but are located in Everett. It would be ideal if some organizations had satellite locations elsewhere in county.

Mark Mantei is concerned with the word "insufficient" under "constraints and obstacles". Perhaps money is not being allocated effectively; there is a lot of money going towards band-aids but if they could be applied to housing first, then perhaps we could make some progress.

Ballot discussion: Karen described the draft ballot in detail and reminded the task force that they are convened to report back to the community about these issues. This is not an implementation group but one that is handing their votes back to the community for action and follow-up.

Craig clarified that this is the Mayor's task force and we are not handing our report to the community but to the Mayor. Craig asked that someone in City administration be responsible for implementing these ideas.

Karen noted that the city's role is not implementing all of the ideas, but driving the task force forward. David said there will be a future discussion about which entities can implement which ideas.

Ken Stark stated the jail transition services facility is in process: the county executive has requested a capital budget dollar amount but the county is lacking \$1.6M in renovations. Perhaps the A1 proposed item on the ballot could be rephrased to say "support the county's efforts to...". Ken also noted that the County is working with Swedish Edmonds and Evergreen Manor in an effort to spread services into the southern part of the county.

Mark asked about bike patrols. Chief Templeman responded that we have to have 3 bike patrol officers, one of which is part-time, but the police department has had to be flexible and have assigned them in more parts of town due to a lack of resources.

Craig asked about vacancies in the police department. Chief Templeman said that vacancies in the department have ranged from 15-24 over the last two years. In 2013 we hired 3 and this year we have hired 7. The department plans to hire 3 or 4 more this year and to be aggressive in 2015 hiring efforts.

Ed Petersen responded to the Hospitality Program concept saying that says he wants his city to be hospitable to all people and this could be consolidated with PATH.

Karen reviewed the Ballot to Final Report timetable in the packet and noted that City and County support staff do not vote.

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

David Hall thanked Chris Adams, Sylvia Anderson, Craig Skotdal, Hil Kaman, Robin Fenn and Flora Diaz for serving on the committee. In developing recommendations, the committee thought about guiding principles. In the Criminal Justice System, factoring underlying issues when crime occurs should be addressed. Get folks help for their underlying issues. Drug addiction, homelessness, find ways to address these underlying problems rather than cycle them through arrest jail prosecute cycle over and over.

Practice should be evidence-based and reduce recidivism. The Task Force should look at all involved silos; it is not a win if we send more people to the ER instead of sending them to jail. We should track data in a way that allows us to adjust what we're doing so we're spending the public's money wisely. All suggestions require funding for treatment and housing. Like alternative court, if there isn't treatment or housing, then it's pointless. The committee thought it would be helpful to divide into three categories.

1. **Policy/Legislative** These should be guided by a legislative body. An alcohol impact area is a mechanism under state law that allows a municipality to ban a list of products that are high potency, low cost, single serving alcohol products. This is somewhat effective in certain areas. Tacoma found a 36% reduction, 10% increase in other areas, net 26% decrease with this legislation. Panhandling should be limited at intersections and not allowed on medians. Not appropriate to ban entirely. This approach has been taken in a number of cities. More detox beds are needed, including a detox facility. Ty has talked about this. Identify and clean up and monitor encampments in a way that gets people into services. Colin talked about their program in Tacoma, Which uses a combo of trying to clear out encampments and get folks into services.
2. **Alternatives to incarceration.** Can we get the same results without sending people to jail with day reporting and work crews. This would free up money for more productive solutions. Make greater use of problem solving courts that are consistent with our first guiding principal of getting to the underlying problems.
3. **Systems.** To make use of teams to identify frequent utilizers, develop tailored approach for each person and improve their quality of life and spend less money on individuals. This would help increase services to help people. Implement best practices for probation services and reduce recidivism through probation.
Increase law enforcement in commercial core areas. Use non-commissioned officers to form relations with commercial businesses, serve as liaison for referrals.
Return released inmates to place of origin, provide assistance to get them back to where they came from or have support, family, and services.
Transport dislocated or stranded individuals, to return them to their families or other support. Implement a countywide Justice Reinvestment model, collaborative systemic review. Evaluate how dollars are being spent, spend more effectively, re-invest dollars back into criminal justice system.

Comment: The good news is that we have clean up of encampments through law enforcement, PATH, Police, 211, report encampments, and PATH sends in a team. These need more capital support. Day reporting and Carnegie release center could be done together. Work crews of made up of homeless was done in NYC. Community paramedics are working on models to improve EMS referrals and reduce recidivism.

Comment: Recidivism refers to someone who is already in system already. The committee would like to limit panhandling to medians and corners for pedestrian safety. Alcohol impact zones are in areas where vulnerable people are.

Q: What does the term system-wide changes refer to?

A: David Hall: The term refers to criminal justice system impacts on entire system. David thinks the criminal justice system needs to interface with other elements of the larger system, including capacity building. Recommendation to expand guiding principles to be system wide, not just criminal justice

Comment: a system is one in which there is capacity to empower all elements to deliver results. Funding is spread too thin instead of capacity building.

Q: I want to understand day reporting to non-secure facility; will that include schools for underage offenders?

A: (Flora) The City doesn't handle Juvenile prosecution, the County does. The city does not have jurisdiction over that.

Comment: Bob Downey spoke about frequent users. He shared a story of someone who was a frequent utilizer, who has been helped to go to mental health court, is now voluntarily in treatment, and got help, and found housing for when he returns to community.

Comment: James Upton stated he was helping EPD with some high utilizers, they had worked together to get two of them in treatment after jailed, and EPD said they had 11 more on their list that were still in the community, and they wanted to know what process would best work to help them get treatment after they are incarcerated.

Comment: David Hall: The Criminal Justice Committee Recommendations would institutionalize this practice and streamline relationships with service providers so there will be a well thought through system.

Comment: Regarding the recommendation on panhandling, this proposed change not only effects the perception of travelers it also changes the perception of what homelessness looks like.

Comment: Evergreen Manor has been working more closely with Providence to improve partnerships. Yet the numbers are increasing.

Comment: This is only going to work if we partner with each other, emphasizes what's in the document about looking at system wide partnerships.

Outreach and Community Services Subcommittee Recommendations

Drop-in Day Centers: We need to add Compass Health Day Center to the list of resources: it serves 130 people and does not just serve the seriously mentally ill. It does not open early but does serve lunch, closing at 3pm. The Mission and Recovery Café, which will open this fall, are also resources. More services need to be included at day centers, with access to employment, case management and ways to get people into services. Drop in centers do exist in other parts of the county operate and include things like after school programs, churches opening their basements, nothing like what Cocoon House offers – there are very few day centers with full resources. One commenter noted that these services should be expanded to the north, south and east parts of the county - we need to convince other communities to do same for their folks so Everett isn't only community with services.

Outreach: Cassie stated the 24/7 on call response and the 1 day a week of outreach model provided with Cocoon House could be duplicated and used for the adult population. This would help businesses who normally use the police department to deal with street issues. One commenter stated that Compass Health has program called PATH which supplies the equivalent of 3 or 4 full time employees specifically for mental health outreach - some of that talent could be directed towards the downtown area. PATH is a resource which is already funded so perhaps it could be used more efficiently. Another commenter noted that PATH's response time depends on the urgency of the situation so it may not match up well with downtown's needs, which are more immediate. Another commenter pointed out that the current outreach system is reactive instead of proactive. If the City and County want to become proactive in outreach they will need to expand capacity.

Meal Programs: Recommendations made as stated on the handout – no questions were asked.

Restrooms: Recommendations made as stated on the handout – no questions were asked.

Funding for treatment in detox and mental health: 20 years ago there was more detox capacity which wasn't a long-term solution for dealing with street issues but it met an immediate need. Law

enforcement welcomes the recommendation for exploring expanded capacity for detox services. Another commenter noted that a sobering center is another option that is really helpful for that area for people who don't need mental health or medical care for detox.

Permanent Housing and Wrap-Around/Supportive Services Sub-committee Recommendations

Creation of Drop In Center: A commenter suggested combining these recommendations with the Outreach and Emergency Subcommittee's Drop In Center Recommendations.

Creation of Additional Triage and Medical/DeTox facilities: Recommendations made as stated on the handout – no questions were asked.

Creation of Diversion/Discharge facility at the Carnegie Building: This would not cost the City money but could be City-supported. This facility is also known as the jail transition facility by those in criminal justice and as Rapid Recidivism Reduction.

Expand Encampment and Street Outreach Response Services: Law enforcement, EMT, Public Works, Health District, COMPASS, VOA have developed a partnership to develop an outreach response to street encampments. Cocoon House also has outreach services but their funding is not stable. Expansion of these current efforts is recommended.

Increased funding for Low cost and Non-traditional housing: HO5 report by Snohomish County Planning and Delivery Services says we will need 1,000 units of affordable housing for each year for the next 20 years – about 400 units are needed within the city of Everett. At a quarter million dollars per unit, \$10M a year, with another 2-3 million each year to preserve what we have, we are talking \$200+ million for the next 20 years. We need to explore less expensive housing options, whether it is shared housing, container housing or park model home housing; we need to consider what will work in our community. Scattered site housing and centralized housing both are needed but scattered sites means services cost more than centralized housing in terms of providing services.

Establishment of a Flex Fund: One commenter shared that some individuals need assistance in the middle of the night, when programs are closed, and in some cases EMS and police officers have taken money out of their own pockets to buy the individual a bus ticket to get home – a flex fund could be useful in those cases.

Ed Petersen stated that we need commitment from the public and a local financial commitment to leverage state and federal government funding. We need to identify priorities to engage the right agencies to get those dollars that will address our community issues.

Cassie noted outside dollars can build facilities, because our tax dollars are paying for them regardless, but the community needs to commit dollars to maintain facilities – without that commitment to provide ongoing services, those programs will fail.

Mark Mantei asked why haven't we had the vision or commitment to seek federal or state dollars.

Ed responded by saying that local housing dollars are limited. If we prioritize what we want as a community we can leverage limited local resources that do exist. If we want to have maximal impact, we will need more local dollars to leverage more dollars from outside the community.

Ken Stark said that Seattle and King County have been very organized politically to tap into federal and state dollars. If Everett and the county as a whole could coordinate to put more focus on going after those dollars this community could benefit from that.

Ed Petersen said that the State Housing Finance Commission and the State Housing Trust Fund Program have dedicated housing dollars and we need stronger advocacy to access those dollars. Local resources and site control are the variables that can be leveraged to receive those dollars.

Glen Bachman introduced a friend who is homeless, not on drugs and not a criminal but needs housing. This committee can be responsive to his situation.

Karen thanked the task force and the subcommittees for their work. She noted that the subcommittee recommendations will be added to the ballot and reminded group of the voting process.

Ed Petersen commented that leadership is critical for this effort to move forward and suggested that the agenda for the next three meetings include an hour with mayor on how to take these recommendations and implement in a way that will have a result.

Karen responded that Chris, Deborah and David will meet with Mayor next week about implementation.

Megan Dunn asked if there is a way to get community input within the voting process; perhaps a survey where the votes could be aggregated into one vote as a non task force member.

David Hall responded that the process used as task force was to collect community comments via comment cards and a public hearing, and consider that input along with their 27 hours of education gained through meeting with the panel. Karen commented that adding the public as a voting member would mean abandoning our charter so in the confines of this process that suggestion would not work. After the panel recommendations are rolled out that mechanism could be used in future outreach - next steps, carrying it out to the community, etc.

Flora Diaz asked that the Task Force will include a minority report.

Cassie Franklin asked that any survey of the public should target the homeless populations, not just the general public. Karen suggested that both are surveyed.

Chris Adams reminded the group that we are still accepting comments in writing.

Motion approved to invite Mayor to next meeting.

Bob Reese commented on roll out and accountability and referenced United Way breakfast by key note speaker who told story of similar task force, with a committee member who asked of group "what do WE do? What action do WE take?" Bob suggested, as task force members, are there places in the city where all 23 of us ought to show up and do clean up in a well-publicized and attended event, for community to come in and help? What can we carry out here that will make a statement to community business owners, homeless individuals and service providers?

Karen reminded the group that the ballot will arrive by email, by 1 p.m. on Oct. 12.